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Reynolds Tavern  
#4 Church Circle at Franklin St.  
Annapolis  
Anne Arundel County  
Maryland

PHOTOGRAPHS

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS...

Addendum to

Reynold's Tavern  
4 Church Circle at Franklin Street  
Annapolis  
Anne Arundel County  
Maryland

HABS No. MD-248

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ADDENDUM TO  
REYNOLD'S TAVERN

MD-248

Location: 4 Church Circle at Franklin, Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

Present Owner: National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, D.C.

Present Occupant: Historic Annapolis, Inc.

Significance: An eighteenth century tavern with interesting brickwork typical of Annapolis architecture.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: After 1747, when the lot was leased to William Reynolds, before 1755, when Mary Fonnereau was granted license to keep tavern in the "Dwelling House of William Reynolds."
2. Architect: Not known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The first definite documentation found on the original owner of the lot on which Reynolds Tavern was built appears in the survey made by James Stoddard (or Stoddart), done in 1718. Stoddard's map shows three lots (59,60,&61) belonging to St Anne's Parish, two of which (60&61) were later leased to William Reynolds.

1 Sept  
1747

Lease, St Anne's Parish to William Reynolds, lots 60 and 61, for 63 years. Reynolds Tavern was subsequently built on lot 60. Reynolds leased parts of lot 61 to various people over the years, but did not subdivide lot 60.

St Anne's vestry minutes, Liber A, folios 297-299

3 April 1777	Probate of William Reynolds' will of 7 October 1776 d unsold parts of lots 60 and 61 to wife Mary and daughter Margaret. In the early 1780's Mary died and Margaret married Alexander Trueman.	Anne Arundel County Wills, EV 1, 33, folio 2.
22 Sept 1784	Alexander Trueman gives bond to the Corporation of the City of Annapolis for purchase of Dean Street, which seperated lots 60 and 61 and was not in use as a street; payment was not made.	Chancery Court Records, Liber 29, folio 2.
15 June 1789	Lease, Alexander Trueman to Deborah Reynolds, 99 years at £10 per annum for house on Cathedral Street, part of lot 60. She later gets title to the property, 25 Sept 1794 (Anne Arundel County Deeds, NH 7, f.325).	Anne Arundel County Deeds, NH 4, folio 270.
15 June 1789	Deed, Alexander Trueman to Gabriel Duvall, all of Trueman's property, including remainder of lot 60, in trust to be sold to pay Trueman's debts.	General Court of the Western Shore Deeds, JG 1, folio 466
2 April 1794	Sale, Gabriel Duvall to John Davidson, remainder of lot 60, for £1021. On October 11 Davidson dies intestate leaving widow Eleanor and children. Property deeded to his heirs 2 August 1798 (Anne Arundel County Deeds NH 9, f.275).	Chancery Court Records, Liber 29, folios 19&20
22 April 1811	Renewal of Lease, St Anne's Parish to Eleanor Davidson, for lots 60 and 61, except parcels leased to others, as set forth in this lease.	General Court of the Western Shore Deeds, JG 7, folio 422
3 Feb 1812	Deed, Eleanor Davidson to the President, Directors and Company of the Farmers Bank of Maryland, parts of lots 60 and 61 as described in lease of 22 April 1811, for \$3600.	General Court of the Western Shore Deeds, JG 7, folio 531
16 July 1818	Deed, ST Anne's Parish to Farmers Bank of Maryland, fee simple title to property acquired by deed of 3 February 1812, for \$350.	Anne Arundel County Deeds, WSG 6, folio 31

31 Jan 1936	Deed, Farmers National Bank to the Public Library Association of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, for \$17,500.00.	Anne Arundel County Deeds, FAM 148, folio 10
19 Sept 1974	Deed, The Public Library Association of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County to the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States, same lot as described in deed of 31 January 1936, for \$10.00.	Anne Arundel County Deeds, Liber 2721, folio 202

4. Original plan and construction: No original plans, specifications, or descriptions have been found. The exterior is little changed, but the interior has had many alterations over the years. A 1777 inventory of William Reynolds' estate records nineteen rooms in which were all of Reynolds' "Goods + Chattels." This inventory, together with a paint analysis done by Frank S. Welsh<sup>3</sup> and the remaining physical evidence, makes it possible to suggest several original features which have been altered.

The inventory lists the various rooms in the following order:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. the upper large Room                         | 9. the Dining Room Below                  |
| 2. the little passage Room                      | 10. the Passage below                     |
| 3. the other passage Room                       | 11. the Hall                              |
| 4. the little Green Room on<br>the second floor | 12. the little Back Parlour               |
| 5. the great Green Room                         | 13. the little new room in the yard       |
| 6. the stair head Room                          | 14. the Kitchen                           |
| 7. the White Room on the<br>second floor        | 15. the seller                            |
| 8. the little blew Room<br>Second floor         | 16. the back kitchen                      |
|   | 17. the little back Room next<br>the Hall |
|   | 18. the Hatters shop below                |
|   | 19. the Hatters Bow Shop                  |

Numbers 1 through 3 appear to be in the attic, leaving the center front room and a small storage room empty, but there is probably no structural change.

Numbers 4 through 8 appear to all be on the second floor. Room 6 has since had a partition removed making it part of the second floor hall. Only one of the small rooms has a coat of blue paint on the woodwork, while the other has a "moderate Yellowish Green." Of the larger rooms both had coats of green, but neither had a coat of white. All walls were white washed plaster.

The first floor and the basement are harder to decipher as there are ten rooms to fit into the two floors. This suggests that there were more rooms on both floors. Several of the rooms could be accounted for if the one-and-one-half story gambrel roofed wing seen in old photographs<sup>4</sup> was existing at that time. If it was it could possibly be the "little new room in the yard" cited in the inventory, as it extended beyond the rear of the house, on the north end. This wing could also account for some of the rooms in the basement (particularly

either the back kitchen or the seller). The present south room on the first floor was probably two rooms originally (the Hall and the little back Room next the Hall), architectural evidence supporting this supposition includes the chimney foundations in the south room of the basement (a block of two parts: one parallel to the end wall, another set at an angle, as though to support a corner fireplace above), indicating two fireplaces on the first floor; the woodwork in this room differs from the rest of the trim in the building, and the paint researcher states that "no original baseboards exist in the room. All the . . . wood trim has been stripped of its paint layering," suggesting that it was installed at a different time and therefore does not have the same paint layering as other woodwork in the building. In the northwest room on the first floor the fireplace was probably originally in the northeast corner of the room as the chimney foundation in the basement has this configuration, there is no foundation under the present fireplace, in fact there was a door in the basement wall beneath this fireplace, now bricked up, and there must have been a door into the wing, the logical position of which would be where the present fireplace is.

5. Alterations and additions: There have been many alterations to Reynolds Tavern over the years, but few major additions. The woodwork has had some changes in practically every room and almost every window has been replaced, except possibly the window lighting the basement stair. Also, as noted above, several rooms probably have been eliminated.

The first major addition appears to have been the small wing to the north. This wing, of eighteenth century appearance, is possibly the little new room in the yard mentioned in the 1777 inventory.<sup>5</sup> Architectural evidence indicates that this wing definitely is an addition, as the south wall, which remains incorporated into the adjacent bank building, is not keyed into the wall of the tavern, but rather is butted against it. In 1794 the Corporation of the City of Annapolis stated that the property was "decaying & becoming less valuable."<sup>5</sup> Gabriel Duvall states that it was "much out of repair when the same was rented which has occasioned a great part of the rent to be laid out in repairs."<sup>6</sup> The extent of these repairs is unknown.

The next major addition occurred in 1812, after the bank bought the property, when the Board of Directors decided a separate structure was needed for a "Banking House." A contract was entered into with John Shaw to "cause to be erected an addition to the House in Annapolis wherein the Bank is at present held, which has been lately purchased by the Directors, and have the said addition fitted up with Vaults etc as a Bank."<sup>7</sup> The second clause of the contract states that the building is to be made on a plan which the Board had, which plan has not come to light. The seventh clause is also very important as it directs Shaw to "have the House and premises now held by the Bank including the present banking room repaired

and fitted for the accomodation of the Cashier and his family in a neat and comfortable manner . . ." The mantles in the south and northeast rooms probably date from these repairs, as might the mantle shelves over the other first floor and the two second floor fireplaces. The front and rear porches might also date from this time.

Repairs were also ordered in 1823 and 1829 for the Bank property. A Franklin stove was purchased for the banking room in 1838. In 1847 a coal stove was bought for the directors room. In 1852 the directors room was repaired and newly furnished. In 1853 a study was undertaken to determine what repairs to the property might be needed.<sup>8</sup>

No major additions were made to the bank until c1892<sup>9</sup> at which time the bank building was raised to two stories. Sometime previous to this alteration the single window on the ~~street~~ (east) facade of the wing was replaced by a door and a new window was added to the right. Louis Cahn states that the bank was added to in 1900 also, "including a modern new vault with safe deposit boxes."<sup>10</sup> In 1906 <sup>11</sup> a wing was added to the rear of the Tavern and additions were made to the bank itself. Several interior changes were made at this time, including the introduction of double doors between the northeast and northwest rooms, and probably the relocation of the fireplace and the addition of the new corner cupboard in the northwest room. In 1915 "the entire bank was remodelled at a cost of \$13,000;"<sup>12</sup> it was at this time that the small wing was totally engulfed by the bank building, as the bank was extended to abut the chimney of the tavern itself. In 1936 the property was split in two and the only change made to Reynolds Tavern was the restoration of the basement kitchen in the 1950's. The bank was greatly enlarged and remodelled in 1969.

- B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure: The three lots owned by St Anne's Parish, opposite the church in Annapolis, in 1742 had, according to an act of Assembly in that year, "had hitherto remained unimproved and might do so for the future, for want of a Power . . . to Lease the same . . . to such Persons as might be willing and desirous to receive such Lease of the Lots aforesaid, or some of them, and to Build on and otherwise improve the same."<sup>13</sup> This act allowed a lease of twenty one years. Apparently this was too short a time period to be considered by investors, as, in 1747, an act of Assembly was passed repealing the previous act and lengthening the lease period to sixty-three years. This was necessary because the Parish had failed to lease the lots, "that such Endeavors have proved ineffectual, by Reason of the short Limitation of Time for which they could make such leases . . ."<sup>14</sup> With the provisions of the new act the Parish easily leased all three lots within several months. Lot fifty nine went to Daniel Dulaney, Lots sixty and all of sixty one except the westernmost part were taken by William Reynolds, and the westernmost part of lot sixty one, "whereon is standing a

Stone House, formerly the Prison,"<sup>15</sup> was leased by Thomas King. William Reynolds, before leasing the ground from St Anne's, kept a "Shop in Annapolis" where he sold sundry "european & India goods," spices, confections, spirits, and other miscellaneous merchandise.<sup>16</sup> The last advertisement Reynolds placed in the Maryland Gazette offering such goods was on 9 October 1751. He is mentioned in 1747<sup>17</sup> as a hatter and in later advertisements he appears as a public house keeper and hatter. He was apparently not the first person to use his house as a tavern, however, as the first public mention of either his house or of anyone keeping tavern there appeared in an advertisement in the Maryland Gazette of 13 November 1755, which read as follows:

Mary Fonnereau

Having Rented Mr. William Reynolds' House, over against the Church (except a small part of which he has reserved for his own use) hereby gives Notice, That she has taken out License to keep Tavern: And all Gentlemen may there have good Entertainment, for themselves, Servants, or Horses; the House being large and very well contrived, with a Good Number of Rooms for different Companies: She has good Wines, and other Liquors, and Gentlemen may depend on good Attendance, and civil Treatment from

Their humble Servant  
Mary Fonnereau

Fonnereau was granted a license "to keep an Inn or Ordinary in the Dwelling House of William Reynolds"<sup>18</sup> two days earlier. She renewed the license the next year, for the "Dwelling House of William Reynolds"<sup>19</sup> again, but in 1757 she renewed her license to keep tavern in "her Dwelling House."<sup>20</sup> In 1758 Reynolds himself renewed his license to keep tavern in "his Dwelling House,"<sup>21</sup> but a previous license could not be found. He renewed his license through 1763. No licenses were recorded in 1764 and 1765; however, in 1766 Reynolds was granted a license "to keep an Ordinary or House of Entertainment."<sup>22</sup> City records unfortunately do not exist for most of the period 1767 through 1783.

In 1761 Reynolds advertised for "a Sober Industrious Man for an Ostler, and other Business, in a Public House."<sup>23</sup> Tavern keeping does not seem to have agreed with him after ten years as he gave notice in 1767 that he would "decline . . . that Way of Business" the next December.<sup>24</sup> Perhaps the many long standing debts owed him were part of his reasoning for leaving the business.; and he advertised again in 1768 in an attempt to collect these debts.<sup>25</sup> In the same advertisement he stated "As I am now more at Leisure, than when I kept Public-House, I purpose to give more Attention to the Hatmaking Business: My former Customers, and others, may be supplied with Hats of any Sort . . ." During the period from 1760 to 1768 the Corporation of the City of Annapolis held their meetings in the tavern thirty five times, and the Mayor's Court sat nine times for a total of thirty two and -a-half days.<sup>26</sup> Reynolds kept up his hat making business until his death, advertising in the Maryland Gazette of 5 December 1776 for "a person properly qualified



to superintend and manage a Hatter's shop--any one well recommended for his skill and care in the management of stuff and wool, will meet with great encouragement." This person was "Wanted immediately," indicating Reynolds poor health. He died soon thereafter, his will being probated 3 April 1777.<sup>27</sup> The will, after monetary bequests, devised <sup>to Reynolds second wife Mary and their daughter Margaret</sup> "all the rest and residue of my present estate both real and Personal," which included the unsold portions of lots sixty and sixty one. Mary Reynolds offered "The large and commodious house, formerly the dwelling house of William Reynolds, well calculated for a tavern or private gentleman's family, as there is every conveniency for either," for rent or lease, in the 30 August 1781 Maryland Gazette, but whether she did rent the house is not known. After Mary Reynolds died, sometime before 1783,<sup>28</sup> the estate went to Margaret and her husband Alexander Trueman, whom she married sometime after 29 May 1781,<sup>29</sup> the date of their marriage license. Whether the couple started living in the house right away is not certain as they are listed as being "of Charles County"<sup>30</sup> in 1783, but they must have been in Annapolis by 1785 when Trueman advertised a boarding house "in a convenient situation opposite the Church Circle, for the reception of boarders and lodgers . . . of the genteelst accomodation, and the strictest endeavours to please."<sup>31</sup> In less than a year, however, he offered "a very large, elegant, and convenient house, fit for public or private business,"<sup>32</sup> for rent. In two months a Cornelius Mills advertised that he had opened a boarding house "in the most elegant manner," in "That commodious house opposite the Church Circle . . . formerly occupied by Major Alexander Trueman."<sup>33</sup>

In 1789 Trueman leased to Deborah Reynolds, a granddaughter of William, "a small brick house about thirty feet in length and about twenty feet in breadth,"<sup>34</sup> situated on Cathedral Street at the rear of lot sixty, for ninety nine years at ten pounds per annum. On the same day Trueman, who had run into severe financial difficulty, deeded the rest of his property to Gabriel Duvall in trust for Duvall, a lawyer, to sell and settle Trueman's debts. That July Duvall advertised "That valuable and well situated Lot and Improvements in this city, lately occupied by Mr. Thomas Price . . ."<sup>35</sup> Who Price was and whether he was the saddler mentioned in an advertisement in the Maryland Gazette on 3 May 1787 is not known. Duvall did not sell the property in 1789 and again offered it for sale in 1790.<sup>36</sup> Alexander Trueman was massacred by Indians in 1792 while in the Ohio Valley "out to invite the Indians to treaty."<sup>37</sup> In 1794 a Chancery Court case was brought against Gabriel Duvall and William Dent Beall (a creditor of Trueman) by the Corporation of the City of Annapolis over Trueman's estate debts, which included satisfying William Reynolds legacies, paying a debt to the State of Maryland, paying a debt due to William Dent Beall, and paying a debt to the City Corporation. The Corporation was distressed because the property was not sold yet and "the Interest on the debt is daily increasing and the property and improvements are decaying and becoming less valuable all of which is against equity and good conscience."<sup>38</sup> To which Duvall responded by saying that he had "endeavoured at sundry different times to execute the trust by a sale of

the property which he has tried in vain at Public as well as private sale," and he had "never been offered for any of the said property . . . any price which was in his opinion nearly equal to the value of the property and therefore he deemed it most advantageous to the creditors to delay the sale thereof and he also saith that he advertised the same twice for sale at Public Vendue and attended for the purpose of making the sale according to advertisement but no bid was made at either time."<sup>39</sup> Duvall further said "That the said house and lot has been occupied by Mrs \_\_\_\_\_ Reynolds and her two Daughters by Direction of said Trueman until late in the year seventeen hundred and ninety one and when they left it, it was rented out by (Duvall) until the present time and the improvements were much out of Repair when the same was Rented." Exactly who Mrs \_\_\_\_\_ Reynolds was is not certain, but she must have been a relative of Margaret. After 1791 the property was rented to William Goldsmith,<sup>40</sup> sheriff of Annapolis in the 1780's. Goldsmith, like Reynolds before him, allowed the City Corporation to meet in the house.<sup>41</sup> John Davidson, collector of the port in the early 1790's, bought the property several months after the Chancery Court case was brought, but he soon died, leaving his widow Eleanor and their children.<sup>42</sup> The rest of the debts were made good by the proceeds of the sale of Trueman's various property and settled by Eleanor Davidson.

Eleanor apparently resided in the house from sometime after 1794 until 1812 when she sold the property to the Farmers Bank of Maryland, one of the first private banks in the nation. The bank decided to buy the house "for the accomodation of this Bank,"<sup>43</sup> for \$3600 on 15 January 1812. On February 26th the Board of Directors must have decided the house was not quite suited for a bank building as they "took up the subject relative to the expediency of building a Banking House," and decided in the affirmative. A committee was appointed "to contract with Mr. John Shaw for the building and completion of the same."<sup>44</sup> John Shaw (1745-1829) was the well known Annapolis cabinet maker who supplied the State House furniture used in the Senate Chamber where Washington resigned his commission. The contract outlines the agreement and is an interesting view of early nineteenth century building practice. The building was "to be made on the plan laid before the Directors, but subject to such alterations as maybe directed by a committee to be appointed by the Board, under whose direction in general the said John Shaw is to act."<sup>45</sup> This plan could have been designed by Shaw, but the contract does not make it clear who the designer was, only that the Board wanted to have a say in the final form of the building. Shaw was to purchase all materials and employ, superintend and direct all the workmen "so as not to make the Bank responsible for the same." Shaw was to receive "as a compensation for his personal Services and attention and agency Ten per cent of all the money laid out by him." The Board only recorded advancing Shaw five hundred dollars "on Account of repairing and building the Banking House;"<sup>46</sup> Whether that was the only payment made to him is not definitely known. After the new bank building was finished Reynolds Tavern became the home of the Cashier of the Bank.

During the War of 1812 the bank loaned \$150,000 to the State of Maryland, and between 1815 and 1822 loaned the State \$140,000 more. Thus the bank played a major role in the war effort and the revitalization of the state after the conflict. In 1841 the Bank was described in these terms: "It may be truly said of this institution, that it has ever been,

and still is considered as sound and as safe as any other banking establishment in this country."<sup>47</sup> The Bank has remained a very sound institution and has never closed its doors, except for the Depression bank holiday of 1933.<sup>48</sup>

Reynolds Tavern remained the home of the Cashier of the Bank until 1925 when L. Dorsey Gassaway, then Cashier, became President. During his stay in the house the rear wing was added and several alterations were made inside. He lived in the house until his death in 1935, after which the building stood vacant until the Library bought it. During the Depression "it became most important that the institution liquidate as many of its nonproductive assets as was feasible . . ." these included Reynolds Tavern. Standard Oil Company offered \$20,000 for the property, "it being its intention to demolish the building and erect a gasoline service station."<sup>50</sup> The Bank was willing to sell the property to another party who would preserve it if they could come up with the money. Mrs. F. Marion (Margaret) Lazenby suggested the library as a prospective purchaser. However, since they had no funds, it didn't appear likely that they would receive the building. The Female Orphan Society of the City of Annapolis had been established with a gift of money which had been collecting interest in the Farmers National Bank for years. The money was not enough to found an orphan assylum, but it was enough to purchase Reynolds Tavern, and the requisite amount was lent to the Library Association, allowing them to buy the tavern.

The Library itself occupied the tavern until 1965, by which time it had greatly outgrown the space available, when a new library was opened on West Street. Thereafter the tavern has been used as the Administrative offices of the county library system until the present (July 1975); the offices are shortly to be moved to new quarters in Parole, several miles west of Annapolis. The Library deeded the building to the National Trust for Historic Preservation on 19 September 1974.

Chronological List of the Use and  
Occupants of Reynolds Tavern

- 1747-1755 William Reynolds built house during this time, probably only used it as a dwelling.
- 1755-1756 Mary Fonnereau operated tavern, Reynolds occupied part of the house.
- 1758-1767 William Reynolds operated tavern and perhaps a hat shop. During the years 1760-1768 he allowed the city Corporation and the Mayor's Court to meet in the house.
- 1768-1776 William Reynolds operated hat shop, not known if for entire period.
- 1777-1791 Mary Reynolds and Margaret her daughter jointly held property until Marys death (sometime between 1781-83), Margaret married Alexander Trueman c.1781, and they probably occupied the house after 1783. Other members of the family appear also to have occupied the house for some space of time.
- 1785 Alexander Trueman advertised keeping a boardinghouse.
- 1786 Trueman offered the house for rent.
- 1786- ? Cornelius Mills advertised opening a boardinghouse here.
- 1789 Thomas Price occupied the house for part of this year and may have sometime previously also.
- 1789 Property deeded to Gabriel Duvall in trust to pay Trueman's debts.
- 1791-1794 Rented by Duvall to William Goldsmith. The city Corporation met in the house five times in 1792, five times in 1793, four times in 1794, and twice in 1795 and six times in 1796, however it is not known if the last two years (1795-96) were spent by Goldsmith in the tavern building, in which case the meetings were moved to his next place of residence.
- 1794 John Davidson bought property and died; not known if he occupied the house or not.
- 1794?-1812 Residence of Eleanor Davidson
- 1812 Used as a banking house by the Farmers Bank of Maryland for a short while until new banking house was built.
- 1812-1925 Residence of the Cashier of the Bank:
- |           |                             |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 1812-1828 | Jonathan Pinkney and family |
| 1828-1836 | Samuel Maynard and family   |
| 1836-1853 | Thomas Franklin and family  |
| 1853-1854 | Richard Conman and family   |
| 1854- ?   | Nicholas Hammond and family |
| ? - ?     | ?                           |
| ? - 1925  | L. Dorsey Cassaway          |
- 1925-1935 Residence of the President, L. Dorsey Cassaway, late Cashier, until his death
- 1935-1936 Building stood vacant
- 1936-1965 Occupied by the library
- 1965-1975 Occupied by the administrative offices of the county library system.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: A mid-eighteenth century two and one half story brick tavern of unusual design.
2. Condition of Fabric: good, but needs some maintenance work.

### B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: 47 feet by 28 feet 6 inches.
2. Foundations: below watertable: English bond brickwork, with stone below the brick.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: All header bond on the main (east) facade and rear (west) facade, English bond on the gable facades, with small areas of all header bond on the east ends of these facades. Four course high belt course between first and second floors follows curve of segmental arches over the first floor windows, remaining level between the windows. Bricks are sized  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches by  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches to 4 inches by  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches; color varies from medium orange-red to brown; many headers are nearly black. Tooled joints.
4. Structural system, framing: brick bearing walls; First floor framing, interior: two girders run longitudinally, bearing on interior partitions of hall; they are  $6\frac{1}{2}$ "-8" x 11", joists  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $7\frac{1}{2}$ ", 18"-26" on centers. Joists are morticed into a 9" sill. Timbers are hewn, and generally irregular. Third floor joists are  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x 9", 27" centers.
5. Porches: Front and rear porches are the same period, and later than the rest of the house. Front porch is over the the central first floor bay and is in a delicate federal style. Rear porch apparently has been moved from center of rear facade to the south when the rear wing was built, it is similar in style, although simpler, to the front porch.
6. Chimneys: One large exterior chimney on each gable end, extending 13 inches from the wall. The rear (west) edge of each chimney rises straight from the ground while the front (east) edge steps back. The chimneys are set forward of center. The north chimney has two inset arched panels near the top.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: There is a modern six panel door in the main entrance, with a three light transom over. The frame is beaded around the openings and has an ovolo on the outside edge.
- b. Windows and shutters: Windows are six over six replacement sash, frames absolutely plain, probably replacement, sills are plain: rounded board shelf on top of flat board set level with brickwork. Basement windows have segmental arches made of an upright row of headers, first floor windows have segmental arches of one and one half brick height, second floor windows abut cornice. Jalousies (movable louvered shutters) on main facade are not original.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Slate covered gambrel roof.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Cornice on main facade: box with cyma reversa (bottom) and ovolo (top) bed molding, crown molding of cyma reversa (bottom) and cyma recta (top); cornice on rear facade: box with cove (bottom) and Ovolo (top) bed molding and crown molding same as east cornice. Bargeboards are made up of a beaded board under an ogee molding.
- c. Dormers: 3 on the front, 2 on the rear; shed roofed dormers continue slope of upper part of gambrel roof.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Basement: Central stair hall with room on each side and small room to north of stair in hall.
- b. First floor: Central stair hall with one room to the south and two to the north.
- c. Second floor: Central stairhall with two rooms on each side.
- d. Attic: Large room to south, stair hall to center rear, small room center front, passage to north with room on each side and small storage room at end.

2. Stairways: A basement stair rises in a single flight, closed string, of 12 risers, has a large post ( $3\frac{1}{2}$  by  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches) at each end connected by a heavy rounded handrail without balusters. There is an open string stair from the first floor to the attic, rising in two flights, with a bi-level landing between, to the second floor. The molded handrail ends in a scroll at the first floor landing. There are two turned balusters to the step and the first floor newel is made up of a cluster of four balusters, the posts above are square. There are scrolled step brackets.

3. Flooring: Typically single, yellow pine boards varying in width from  $6\frac{3}{4}$ " to 9"; some wider boards appear at stair landings. The under side of the first floor shows that many boards are chipped at bearing on joists to level them up. The first floor is now mostly covered with modern narrow oak flooring (and now covered with wall to wall carpet) and the second floor with (wall to wall carpet) except for the (northwest and southwest rooms). The attic floor reveals the original boards, which have shrunk to open cracks between the boards.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Whitewashed plaster, ceilings on split wood lath.
5. Doorways and doors: Mostly two panel doors of raised panels, one six panel door (door from south room, first floor into hall), with small panels in the middle; trim is simple.
6. Special decorative features, trim, cabinet work: Panelled window seats in northeast room; raised panel wainscoting in stair hall continues up the stair; most cornices are cyma reversa (bottom) and cyma recta (top), of wood; south room first floor has plaster cornice, cove (bottom) and shallow cyma recta (top). Mantles: first floor: south room: a large chimneypiece on a projecting chimney breast. . . on either side is a pilaster strip with patterned reeding, essentially of a herringbone type. The entablature has a narrow architrave. frieze with a central tablet, and end blocks with an elliptical reeded rosette. The cornice has a dentil course; northeast room: a corner fireplace with an Adam mantelpiece . . . It has reeded pilasters, architrave with two fascias, central tablet and end blocks in the frieze, each with an elliptical reeded rosette. The bed moldings consist of an enriched cavetto, ornate dentils, and a small cyma reversa. The corona bears a reeded band, above which is a cavetto and astragal carved with a rope motive. The cornice breaks out over the central tablet and end blocks. It appears probable that this fireplace was originally framed by a simple rail and stiles at the corners of the chimney breast; northwest room: a fireplace on a projecting chimney breast. The opening is now closed with an ornamental cast-iron fire front, probably dating from the late 19th Century. It has a wide border at the sides and top with rosettes in panels at the corners; the side panels contain somewhat naturalistic flowers set in an urn, while across the top is an arcaded motive. Above the central portion are foliated spandrels. The central portion projects, with rounded corner panels containing peacocks; in the center are two rows, of arcades, apparently serving to adjust the air intake. The ornament on this fire front is all in low relief; it is painted and in excellent condition. The mantelpiece is of wood, an architrave with shoulders, above which is a frieze with plain central tablet and fluted end blocks. A cornice with dentil course terminates in a cavetto; it breaks out over the tablet and end blocks. There is a clumsy mantle shelf added to the top (at an uncertain date); Second floor: simple, molded mantle shelves, probably added, perhaps eighteenth century; attic: a stone mantelpiece (now painted) apparently dating from the mid 19th Century. It has low Tudor arch, chamfered pilasters and simple mantle shelf rounded at the corners. The frieze and pilasters are treated with 'panels' outlined by gouge-shaped incision. Corner cabinet in the northwest corner of the north west first floor room has two doors of one raised panel each below, and two glass doors above set into a semi-circular opening, both sets of doors are flanked by fluted pilasters.

7. Hardware: Iron strap hinges in basement retain leather washers. Various doors hang on HL, strap, and butt hinges. Some doors have cast iron box locks with porcelain knobs. In the attic there is one Norfolk latch and one early thumb latch. The case of a wooden box lock remains in the basement.
8. Mechanical equipment:
  - a. Heating: originally by fireplaces, then stoves, now central heat.
  - b. Lighting: no original fixtures, now done by electricity.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: An urban corner lot, at the intersection of Church Circle and Franklin Street, facing busy Church Circle in downtown Annapolis.
2. Historic landscape design: Nothing at present above ground, except iron fence around rear of lot; archaeology may reveal something.
3. Outbuilding: One 14 by 14 foot brick smokehouse behind the tavern.

March 8, 1984

Edited by: Eleni Silverman from a report  
submitted by:  
Anthony Oliver James  
National Trust for Historic  
Preservation summer intern  
July 1975



FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>for a copy of this map see John W. Reys, Tidewater Towns: City Planning in Colonial Virginia and Maryland (Williamsburg, Va: The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, ), figures 81 and 82.

<sup>2</sup>for an account of this activity see the renewal of lease, 22 April 1811, between St Annes Parish and Eleanor Davidson, see Appendix A.

<sup>3</sup>Frank S. Welsh, Reynolds Tavern: Paint Analysis of the Interior and Exterior to Determine Original Paint Colors (Prepared for Historic Annapolis, Inc., July 1974).

<sup>4</sup>See especially photographs in collection of M.E. Warren, #'s 4,5,6 (listed on page 11 above).

<sup>5</sup>Chancery Court Records, Liber 29, folio 10.

<sup>6</sup>Chancery Court Records, Liber 29, folio 15.

<sup>7</sup>Proceedings of the President and Board of Directors of the Farmers Bank of Maryland, 4 March 1812.

<sup>8</sup>Bank Proceedings.

<sup>9</sup>Photographic evidence indicates date as 1892. Photographs before the addition of the dome to the courthouse (added in 1892) show the bank as two stories. Possibly earlier. Photographs and some historical data at M.E. Warren, Photography, Annapolis, Maryland.

<sup>10</sup>Louis F. Cahn, Sesqui-Centennial: the Farmers National Bank of Annapolis, 1805-1955 ([Annapolis:] the Farmers National Bank of Annapolis in Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of its Founding, [1955]), p.25.

<sup>11</sup>Cahn, p.25. At least before 1908, as this addition shows on the 1908 insurance map.

<sup>12</sup>Cahn, p.25.

<sup>13</sup>Steiner, Bernard Christian, ed., Archives of Maryland [vol.] XLII Proceedings and Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland, [vol.] 20, 1740 to 1744 (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1923), p.432.

<sup>14</sup>Archives of Maryland, [vol.] XLIV, p.659.

<sup>15</sup>Vestry Minutes of St Annes Parish, vol. 1, folio 295.

<sup>16</sup>various advertisements in the Maryland Gazette, 1745-1751.

<sup>17</sup>Maryland Gazette, 14 July 1747.

<sup>18</sup>Anne Arundel County Court Judgements, ISB#3, folios 335-336.

- 19 Anne Arundel County Court Judgements, ISB#3, folio 707.
- 20 Anne Arundel County Court Judgements, ISB#4, folio 103.
- 21 Anne Arundel County Court Judgements, ISB#4, folio 317.
- 22 Annapolis Records, Liber 3, folio 174.
- 23 Maryland Gazette, 13 August 1761.
- 24 Maryland Gazette, 27 August 1767, see Appendix A for copy.
- 25 Maryland Gazette, 25 August 1768, see Appendix A for copy.
- 26 See Appendix A.
- 27 Anne Arundel County Wills, EV#1:33, folio 5.
- 28 Chancery Court Record, Liber 29, folio 24.
- 29 Anne Arundel County Marriage Record, 1777-1813, folio 14.
- 30 Chancery Court Record, Liber 29, folio 23. Also, the state tax assessment of 1783 lists Trueman in Charles County.
- 31 Maryland Gazette, 19 May 1785.
- 32 Maryland Gazette, 23 March 1786.
- 33 Maryland Gazette, 29 June 1786.
- 34 Anne Arundel County Deeds, Liber NH4, folio 270, see Appendix A.
- 35 Maryland Gazette, 16 July 1789.
- 36 Maryland Gazette, 27 May 1790, the "Valuable house and lot in Annapolis belonging to Captain Alexander Trueman".
- 37 Maryland Gazette, 9 August 1792, also referred to in American Heritage June 1950, p. 109.
- 38 Chancery Court Record, Liber 29, folio 10.
- 39 Chancery Court Record, Liber 29, folios 14, 15.
- 40 Chancery Court Record, Liber 29, folio 20.
- 41 5 times in 1792, 5 times in 1793, 4 times in 1794, 2 times in 1795, and six  
in 1796. Annapolis Records, Liber AR 8, passim.

42. Davidson died intestate, 11 October 1794, Maryland Gazette 16, October, 1794.
43. Proceedings of the President and Board of Directors, Farmers Bank of Maryland, 6 November 1811, see Appendix C.
44. Bank Proceedings, February 26, 1812.
45. Bank Proceedings, March 4, 1812.
46. Bank Proceedings, April 29, 1812.
47. David Ridgely, Annals of Annapolis (Baltimore: Cushing & Brother, 1811), p. 246.
48. Letter from Marion Lazenby to Mrs. James E. Galloway, dated February 29, 1972.
49. Letter from Marion Lazenby to Mrs. James E. Galloway, dated Feb. 29, 1972.
50. Ditto.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views:

a. Photographs in the Collection of Marion E. Warren, Annapolis

	approximate date	negative #	description
1.	between 1860-66	3202	View west from State House dome in winter, clearly shows Reynolds Tavern and One story bank building, stereopticon view by C.S. Hopkins
2.	before 1866	1733	View west from State House dome in summer, Reynolds Tavern almost fully obscured.
3.	probably 1892	3248	View west from State House dome in winter, tavern obscured by trees, bank shows with two stories.
4.	c.1870's	3155	View from north in winter, tavern and bank are painted white. North wing of tavern connecting one story bank shows up well, with just one window on the first floor street facade. Stereopticon view.
5.	c.1880's	884-1	View from north, very similar to previous photograph.
6.	c.1892	631	View from north of one story bank building and tavern wing within days before the second story addition was begun. Henry Schaefer was commissioned by the Bank to document the building before it was altered. Connecting wing of tavern shows with door replacing window, and a new window to the right, street facade
7.	after 1906	3342	View from north of two story bank building with rear addition of 1906
8.	c.1892-93	385 1084	View looking down West Street in winter, showing two story bank building soon after the completion of the second story.
9.	after 1892	3236	View looking down West Street in summer, two story bank partially obscured by trees.
10.	1908	3012	Photograph of first street car, 1908, with the northeast corner of Reynolds Tavern, and the bank building in the background.

b. Photographs in the Hayman Collection, at the Hall of Records

		file folder #	
1.	c.1892	103	same as Warren #6 above.
2.	c.1892-93	104	same as Warren #8 above.
3.		105	same as Warren #3 below.

c. Photographs in the Forbes Collection, Hall of Records

..	approximate date	file folder #	description
1.	between 1860-66	64	same as Warren #1 above.
2.	--	184	Old Bank (no print available)
3.	between 1892-1906	197	View from north, in winter, of the tavern and two story bank, before rear addition of 1906.
4.	c.1870's	735	Same as Warren #4 above.
5.	--	860	New Bank Building (no print available.
6.	after 1892	872	Same as Warren #9 above.

d. Photographs in the Annapolis Public Library, West Street, in a booklet in the Maryland Room

1. Photographs of kitchen in 1950's after tearing out later work and before plastering.

e. Maps in the Hall of Records, Annapolis

1. June 1885 (Annapolis Maps: box 28, folder 11)  
Sanborn Insurance Maps of Annapolis, Map #2 shows unaltered outline of north wing and bank building.
2. October 1909 (Annapolis Maps: box 28, folder 7)  
Insurance Maps of Annapolis and Eastport, published by Sanborn Map Company. Shows enlargements to rear of bank and addition of second story, and shows rear wing on the tavern.

f. Maps at the Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis

1. April 1930  
Insurance Maps of Annapolis, Maryland, published by Sanborn Map Company. Shows large 1913 alterations and additions to bank.

2. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

1. Records at the Hall of Records, Annapolis
  - a. Annapolis Records
    1. Corporation of the City of Annapolis Minutes
    2. Mayor's Court Proceedings
    3. Ledgers
  - b. Anne Arundel County Records
    1. Court Judgements
    2. Deeds
    3. Inventories
    4. Wills

- c. Farmers National Bank, Annapolis. Proceedings of the President and Directors (of the Farmers Bank of Maryland), 1810-1856, 2 vols.
- d. General Court of the Western Shore, Deeds.
- e. (Maryland State) Assessment of 1783.
- f. (Maryland State) Chancery Court Records.
- g. St Anne's Episcopal Church, Annapolis. Vestry Minutes, 1708-1858, 2 vols.
- h. Shaw Family Bible.

2. Deeds at the Anne Arundel County Court House

3. A Brief History of Reynolds Tavern. Prepared by the staffs of the Maryland Historical Trust and Historic Annapolis, Inc, 1967. Copy at the Maryland Historical Trust, also one at the National Trust, under a HABS cover. Incomplete research with some inaccurate facts.

4. Historic American Buildings Survey, Architects Work Sheet. Reynolds Tavern (MD-248), prepared by Harley J. McKee, August 6, 1964.

5. National Register Nomination Form for Reynolds Tavern, Prepared by Mrs Robert L. Baker, Jr, Executive Secretary, Historic Annapolis, Inc, December 1973. Incomplete and inaccurate.

6. Information at Historic Annapolis, Inc, Annapolis

- a. Peterson, Charles E. Notes on Reynolds Tavern. Prepared for Historic Annapolis, Inc, August 16, 1974. Copy at the National Trust also.
- b. Welsh, Frank S. Reynolds Tavern: Paint Analysis of the Interior and Exterior to Determine Original Paint Colors. Prepared for Historic Annapolis, Inc, July 1974.

7. Interviews

- a. 10 July 1975, Annapolis, with Mrs James E. Galloway, a former member of the Library Board. Confirmed that Reynolds Tavern was threatened with replacement by a filling station; and that no work was done by the library before the 1952-53 basement restoration.
- b. 10 July 1975, Annapolis, telephone conversation with Miss Esther King, former director of the library. Confirmed filling station threat; during excavation of parking lot behind tavern to solve drainage problem, a pattern of brickwork was found; in 1952-53 basement restoration a door was found in the south room of the basement on the wall separating the room from the stair hall; no other work was done at that time; the smokehouse was painted by the Garden Club in 1936 or '37, at that time there was a dirt floor inside, with a depression in the center.

- c. 15 July 1975, Annapolis, with Mr Bosley O. Waters, senior vice president, Farmers National Bank.  
Date of most recent addition to bank: 1969.
  8. Letter from F. Marion Lazenby to Mrs James E. Galloway, 29 February 1972. Outlined history of the property in the 1930's.
  9. Papenfuse, Edward, director of Research, et al. Final Report, National Endowment for the Humanities Grant #H69-0-178, "Southern Urban Society after the Revolution: Annapolis Maryland, 1782-86." Particularly useful are the lot histories in Appendix F.
- b. Secondary and published sources:
1. Books:
    - a. Cahn, Louis F. Sesqui-Centennial: The Farmers National Bank of Annapolis, 1805-1955. (Annapolis:) The Farmers National Bank of Annapolis in Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of its Founding, (1955).
    - b. Merrit, Elizabeth, ed. Archives of Maryland, [vol.]LXIV: Proceedings and Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland, [vol.]32, October 1773 to April 1774. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1947.
    - c. Reps, John W. Tidewater Towns: City Planning in Colonial Virginia and Maryland. Williamsburg, Va: The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation,
    - d. Ridgely, David. Annals of Annapolis. Baltimore: Cushing & Brother, 1841.
    - e. Semmes, Raphael, ed. Archives of Maryland, [vol.]LXIII: Proceedings and Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland, [vol.]31, 1771 to June-July 1773. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1946.
    - f. Steiner, Bernard Christian, ed. Archives of Maryland, [vol.]XLII: Proceedings and Acts of the Assembly, [vol.]20, 1740 to 1744. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1923.
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  2. The Maryland Gazette. Various issues from 1745 to 1794, available at the Hall of Records, Annapolis.
  3. Vertical file on Reynolds Tavern, clippings of interest. Annapolis Public Library, West Street.

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ADDENDUM TO:  
REYNOLD'S TAVERN  
4 Church Circle at Franklin Street  
Annapolis  
Anne Arundel County  
Maryland

HABS MD-248  
*HABS MD, 2-ANNA, 8-*

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001